



RENEWABLE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES

Businesses and organizations can distinguish themselves as cutting-edge, progressive, and environmentally-friendly by installing and using renewable energy. Grants and tax incentives make renewable energy a financially sound investment.

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy includes solar, wind, hydro, and biofuels. In contrast to fossil fuels such as oil and coal, renewable energy sources cannot be depleted and do not contribute the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Solar can be used to produce electricity or hot water. Wind generates electricity. Biofuels can run furnaces and boilers, electric generators, and diesel vehicles.

How do I get it?

There are two options. Install your own system to directly produce renewable energy or purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs). The purchase of RECs help renewable energy producers pay for their projects, such as rooftop solar photovoltaic systems or wind turbines, by valuing the environmental benefits.

How to find a designer and installer to put in a system?

There are many firms that specialize in designing or installing renewable energy systems. The Solar Energy Business Association of New England (SEBANE) and the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) both maintain directories of these services.

Is there financial support?

Yes. The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, a state agency, administers the state Renewable Energy Trust. They offer a number of grant programs to help pay for the design and installation of renewable energy systems. There are also federal and state tax incentives, particularly for businesses, that further reduce the cost.

For those purchasing renewable energy certificates, your purchase from a source recognized by the MTC will result in grant funds, matching the amount of your purchase, coming back to Cambridge for clean energy projects.

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative/Renewable Energy Trust

<http://www.masstech.org>

- Large On-Site Renewables Initiative; Small Renewables Initiative; Green Building Feasibility Studies; Green Affordable Housing Program
- *The Case for Installing Solar Electricity: A Guide for Massachusetts Businesses*, <http://www.masstech.org/cleanenergy/cando/howto.htm>
- Photovoltaic Cash Flow Calculator (in Microsoft Excel) <http://www.masstech.org/cleanenergy/cando/howto.htm>

Clean Energy Choice

- Matching grants to community based on renewable energy certificate purchases <http://www.cleanenergychoice.org>

Federal & State Tax Incentives

- Database of federal and state tax incentives for renewable energy <http://www.dsireusa.org>

Solar Energy Business Association of New England

- Association of solar energy manufacturers, component makers, designers, and installers <http://www.sebane.org>

Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

- Non-profit, educational association promoting renewable energy in the Northeast. <http://www.nesea.org>

National Biodiesel Board

- National trade association with list of local distributors of biodiesel and other information <http://www.biodiesel.org>

World Energy

- Chelsea-based wholesale supplier of biodiesel <http://www.worldenergy.net>

Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance

- Distributor of Clean Energy Choice eligible renewable energy certificates <http://www.massenergy.com>